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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5242

November 8, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GORDON O. MOE
THROUGH: DAVID ELLIOTT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *B*
SUBJECT: Report on Activities of
Technical Panels

Thank you for your recent memo on the activities of the technical panels. As you suggest, I would appreciate periodic status reports of this nature.

DIA review completed. Pgs 3-9 ONLY.

OSD, Navy Reviews Completed. Pgs 3-9 ONLY.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI C05296615 Pgs 3-9 ONLY.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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November 5, 1974

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

The attached is in response to my request to David Elliott for a status report on NSC Technical Panel activities following our conversation last week.

I have prepared a thank-you note for your signature (Tab 2) if you wish to use it to acknowledge the report and accept the offer to provide such reports monthly.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you initial the acknowledgment at Tab 2.

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRETINFORMATION

November 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

GORDON O. MOE *gm*

THROUGH:

DAVID ELLIOTT *D.E.*

SUBJECT:

Technical Consultants' Activities

This is in response to your request for a more frequent up-date on status and plans of NSC Technical Panel activities. I will, unless advised otherwise, generally plan to up-date this on a monthly basis. Attachment 1 summarizes the purpose and membership of each Panel.

PAST PANELS1. NATO Panel

- Report completed March 1974, transmitted to Secretary Schlesinger for comment in June 1974. Specific improvements in anti-armor, naval resupply, air defense, and defense suppression capabilities were recommended.
- Some difficulty was experienced in establishing the mechanism by which DoD would respond to these studies, but with Secretary Schlesinger's and General Wickham's personal assistance, follow-up actions are now under active consideration.
- A report on DoD plans for follow-up actions should be ready for Secretary Schlesinger's review during November, and should be forwarded to NSC during December.

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Classified by: Gordon O. Moe

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2. Laser Panel

- Report completed April 1974, transmitted to Secretary Schlesinger for comment in June 1974. The study concluded that the DoD effort was "about right," and described the status and probable near term directions of this technology in both military and energy areas.
- Response received from Secretary Clements in June 1974.
- This study was primarily intended to be an informative technical assessment, and as such recommendations were not stressed. However, the study was instrumental in (a) insuring that funds added to the DoD laser program at President Nixon's request were assigned to basic device technology instead of demonstration programs, (b) reorienting the Army's Mobile Test Unit (MTU) somewhat, although not to the extent envisioned by the Panel, (c) reducing classification on laser fusion technology, and (d) assisting OMB in budgetary decisions regarding prudent funding and timing of major laser fusion installations and laser isotope operation capabilities.
- No additional activity planned. The Panel Report is utilized by many as a reference.

3. Night-All Weather Panel

- Report completed August 1974, transmitted to Secretary Schlesinger for comment and reaction October 1974. Serious deficiencies in our European night-all weather air attack capabilities are described, major OSD/JCS planning efforts are recommended to correct the situation, and advanced technology capable of providing substantial improvement is identified.
- This report has just begun to be reviewed by the DoD but the activity has already had an impact by focusing the attention of the Services and OSD in this specific area through Panel briefing requests. There are encouraging indications that follow-up will be active, especially if NSC interest remains high.
- The President has read an abbreviated summary of this report.

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CURRENT PANELS1. Ocean Surveillance Panel

- Preliminary draft completed October 1974, transmitted to the Navy for classification check and initial informal comments. Results indicate that aggregate Soviet capability versus US surface ships is very impressive, and that capabilities are likely to grow rapidly in the sub-surface area. Specific R&D efforts to better understand ASW technology are recommended, as are steps to counter the surface surveillance capability and to stay ahead of future Soviet ASW advances.
- Draft Report will be circulated to other appropriate agencies for informal comment and revised into a final draft for Secretary Kissinger by late November or December.

2. Strategic Qualitative Improvements Panel

- Panel still involved in briefings, discussions, and deliberations. There is a possibility of a first preliminary draft report (for circulation for informal comment) by November, but December is more likely. Panel hopes to further definitize the impact of potential Soviet qualitative improvements on US strategic forces, indicate relative technical advantages/disadvantages of alternative US strategic improvements, and point out any technical implications of these findings for SALT II.

3. Tactical Intelligence Panel

- The Panel has about completed the process of briefings, discussions and deliberations, and is beginning preparation of a report. A preliminary draft report should be available by December.
- It appears that the Panel will be in a very good position to elaborate on the additional tactical support uses national reconnaissance systems could provide; to recommend actions to realize these capabilities; and to indicate potential impact on US capabilities.

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4. Wheelon Panel (Communications Security)

- This Panel is being very helpful to me in evaluating proposed technical measures and raising technical questions. It will be of most use in evaluating long term technical solutions to be submitted by January 1.

POSSIBLE FUTURE PANELS

- I am presently considering alternatives for future Panel topics which might be considered by NSC. I have not yet reached any firm conclusions on what my recommendations would be, but I should have alternatives for your consideration prepared during November. A broad satellite vulnerability study and an NCA/ WWMCCS interface C³I study are two possibilities.

I hope that this, together with the reports and report summaries which have been provided to you and Secretary Kissinger, will meet the need you have expressed for more frequent up-dates. In order to stay in closer touch with your and Secretary Kissinger's interests and guidance on these activities and to provide any further detail you might like, I would very much like to meet personally with you and Dr. Elliott for 20-30 minutes on a monthly basis at the time these written summaries are submitted.

Attachment a/s

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PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP
OF
NSC AD HOC TECHNICAL PANELS

NATO Panel

Purpose: To review technological alternatives for significantly up-grading NATO conventional defense capabilities.

Membership: Dr. Charles P. Slichter, Chairman; Mr. Burton P. Brown; Dr. Solomon J. Buchsbaum; Dr. Ivan A. Getting; Mr. Terrell E. Greene; Dr. Lawrence Hafstad; Mr. Frank W. Lehan; and Dr. Vincent V. McRae.

Laser Panel

Purpose: To assess the status and potential significance of advanced laser technology for military applications and energy applications.

Membership: Dr. Solomon J. Buchsbaum, Chairman; Dr. Lewis Branscomb; Dr. Theodore Cairns; Dr. Robert E. LeLevier; Mr. Louis H. Roddis, Jr.; Dr. Albert D. Wheelon; and Dr. Fredrik Zachariasen. (Assisted by Dr. Murray Gell-Mann; Dr. Elliott Montroll; and Dr. Alvin M. Weinberg, FEO Consultants on Energy Application Report.)

Night-All Weather Report

Purpose: To review quality of current and planned night-all weather air attack capabilities; to identify major deficiencies; and to recommend significant technological improvements.

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Membership: Dr. Charles M. Herzfeld, Chairman; Dr. Harold Agnew; Mr. Burton P. Brown; General David A. Burchinal, USAF (Ret); Dr. Edward E. David, Jr.; Dr. William G. McMillan; Dr. Vincent V. McRae; and Dr. Leonard S. Sheingold.

Ocean Surveillance Panel

Purpose: To assess Soviet surface and sub-surface ocean surveillance capabilities, and their potential technical impact on US naval operations.

Membership: Mr. Louis H. Roddis, Chairman; Mr. Burton P. Brown; Dr. Lawrence Hafstad; Dr. Hubert Heffner; Mr. Frank W. Lehan; Dr. Vincent V. McRae; Dr. Albert D. Wheelon; and Dr. James Fletcher.

Strategic Qualitative Improvements Panel

Purpose: To assess the technical implications of Soviet strategic forces qualitative improvements with respect to US deterrent posture; and to review technical aspects of alternatives for qualitative improvements to US strategic forces.

Membership: Dr. Edward E. David, Jr., Chairman; Dr. Solomon J. Buchsbaum; Dr. Ivan A. Getting; Dr. Robert E. LeLevier; Dr. Michael May, Mr. Philip Odeen; Dr. Gerald F. Tape, Dr. Kenneth M. Watson; and Dr. Fredrik Zachariasen.

Tactical Intelligence Panel

Purpose: To review the extent to which further tactical applications of national reconnaissance assets can be achieved, and the technical and procedural steps which would have to be implemented to realize such additional benefits.

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Membership: Dr. Charles P. Slichter, Chairman; Dr. Charles M. Herzfeld; Mr. Burton P. Brown; Mr. Terrell E. Greene; Mr. Frank W. Lehan; Dr. Byron Leonard; and Dr. Vincent V. McRae.

Wheelon Panel

Purpose: To provide technical backup and overview of DoD actions in response to NSDM 266.

Membership: Dr. Albert D. Wheelon, Chairman; Dr. Charles M. Herzfeld; and Mr. Frank W. Lehan.

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